

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:05 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14, 2010, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Gilbert, Hays, Mayeda,
Taniguchi, and Chairperson Ning.

Absent: Commissioners Hazell and Robbins.

Also Present: Community Services Director Jones,
Recreation Services Manager Brunette,
Senior Business Manager Minter, and
Park Services Manager Carson.

MOTION: Commissioner Taniguchi moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Robbins for the April 14, 2010 Commission meeting. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Taniguchi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Gilbert moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2010

MOTION: Commissioner Gilbert moved for the approval of the March 10, 2010 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Mayeda seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Hazell and Robbins).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

Chairperson Ning welcomed Catherine, Youth Council member from West High School.

7. NEW BUSINESS

**7A. UPDATE ON PROPOSAL BY NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND
DRUG DEPENDENCE OF THE SOUTH BAY TO PROHIBIT SMOKING IN CITY
PARKS**

Community Services Director Jones provided background on the item and welcomed Joan Waddell, Program Director, National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of the South Bay (NCADDSB).

Ms. Waddell distributed packets and requested that an item be placed on the May 2010 Commission meeting agenda to share results of her survey and clean-up findings and to ask the Commission's support in banning smoking in Torrance parks. She stated that ten park butt clean-ups and 1,500 surveys have been completed. She introduced Christin Taylor-Antonio and Barbara DeMico who would be giving the presentation next month if so directed by the Commission. She requested that Commissioners review their packets and added that she hopes to take their recommendation to City Council before the June 2010 election.

Commissioner Hays stated that he participated in a City park clean-up and commended NCADDSB for their efforts.

Responding to Commissioner Gilbert's inquiry, Ms. Waddell stated that there are more butts in parks than beaches, noting that all parks in Los Angeles County, City of Los Angeles, Palos Verdes, and Redondo Beach are smoke-free.

The Commission unanimously directed staff to bring forward an item for next month's agenda.

7B. UPDATE ON WILSON PARK POND RESTORATION PROJECT

Community Services Director Jones provided background on the Wilson Park Pond Restoration Project and reported that City Council awarded the contract to Condor, Inc. on April 13, 2010. He stated that the goal is to complete the project by July 4, 2010 and that Proposition 40 grant funds will be used. He noted that there will be a natural looking hardened bottom, that the water level will be less than 18 inches so there is no need for fencing, and that appropriate signage will be installed informing people that the water is chlorinated and not healthy for fish or turtles.

In response to Commissioner Hay's concern regarding potential earthquake damage, he advised that that a vinyl bladder will be installed under the hardened bottom.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. DISCUSS NAMING OPTIONS FOR THE LOMITA CORRIDOR PARK PROJECT

Senior Business Manager Minter provided a video presentation on the Lomita Corridor Park Project developed by the landscape architect. He distributed supplemental correspondence received after agenda packets were prepared and announced that there has been an offer to donate 20 to 30 cherry trees. He recommended that the Commission begin discussing naming options for the park and that the item be tabled until the May Commission meeting to allow for additional naming ideas. He noted that five names have been submitted so far: Anzanita, Cathanza, Seaside Ranchos Park, Las Brisas, and Joseph, Matthew and Micah Park in honor of Joseph Anzack, Jr., Matthew Ferrara, and Micah Gifford.

Commissioner Mayeda questioned how parks are named in Torrance and Community Services Director Jones responded that there are a variety of ways to name parks, that Spanish surnames or themes are often used, and that it is preferable to

engage the immediate community. He offered to bring back the history of how names were selected in the City.

Chairperson Ning challenged each Commissioner to come up with five names for consideration by the next meeting.

Melissa Wright, Moresby Drive, stated that a theme would help with the tile art project and that she would support naming the park Joseph, Matthew and Micah Park because the boys grew up in the area and were community volunteers.

Lauren Cotner, Vanderhill Road, suggested having a naming contest at Seaside Elementary School to involve community youth.

Bart Hoffman, Carmelynn Street, recommended naming the park John Burt Hoffman Park after his father and former Park Services Administrator for the City in honor of the contributions he made to the community.

Tom Dryer, Delos Drive, stated that John Burt Hoffman dedicated his life to the City's park system and that naming a park in his honor would be a fitting tribute.

June Lee, Vanderhill Road, distributed and read her letter dated April 14, 2010 and voiced her support for naming the park Joseph, Matt, and Micah Park in honor of the three soldiers killed within 11 months of each other and who attended Seaside Elementary School, Calle Mayor Middle School, and South High School.

Chairperson Ning directed staff to involve community schools in the naming process and to continue discussion to the May Commission meeting, with voting to take place at the June Commission meeting.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Has not met.

9B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Gilbert reported that they are waiting for two reports from last year's grant recipients.

9C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

No report.

9D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Has not met.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for March 2010 was included in agenda packets. He stated that the City is currently in the Budget Review process and that the Department has been asked to look for potential revenue enhancements and efficiencies. He noted that a consultant is in

the process of conducting a fee comparison study and that the subsidy plan is being reviewed.

Chairperson Ning stated that he would like to see more revenue come in from filming permits.

10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for March 2010 was included in agenda materials. He reported that this week they will begin rebuilding the rotunda structure at El Retiro Park, with completion expected in three weeks. He stated that they are trying to save pine trees at El Nido Park that are being harmed by beetles.

10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for March 2010 was included in agenda packets.

Commissioner Hays stated that he was impressed with the tremendous turnout at the March 27, 2010 Environmental Fair.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #2

11A. Commissioner Taniguchi stated that she enjoyed the Spring Boutique, Pancake Breakfast, and Special Olympics. She announced the 38th Annual Bunka-Sai Japanese Cultural Festival on May 1-2, 2010 to benefit the Sister City Student Cultural Exchange Program.

11B. Commissioners Mayeda stated that he enjoyed visits to Columbia Park and Paradise Park.

11C. Commissioner Ning stated that he tried to go to the Beat the Odds selection meeting but he arrived there late.

11D. Community Services Director Jones announced a church organization's special volunteerism day on May 8, 2010, noting that they have offered to help at Madrona Marsh and to paint a mural in the El Retiro Park rotunda area.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:17 p.m., Commissioner Hays moved to adjourn the meeting to May 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Ning so ordered.

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| Approved as Submitted May 12, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk |
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